

construction projects in excess of \$10 million. In other words, any water storage proposal that was under \$10 million would not be reviewed by this board but would be reviewed by the responsible entity, Natural Resource District or otherwise, but that if the proposal was above \$10 million, they would review that project, make recommendations and either concur or disapprove. In the five or six or seven years that the Water Management Board has been in existence they really haven't done anything. It's kind of an embarrassment to stand here and say that but the facts are that they haven't. And...well, yes, they did, I've got to make one small exception, they have negotiated for the mediator between Central Power out of Lexin...out at McConaughy and the Whooping Crane Trust Fund. I think they spent 25,000 doing that. Now that's the good news. The bad news is that it has cost the power district about 14 or \$15 million paid to Washington lawyers to try to resolve that problem. I had kind of hoped that maybe the Water Management Board could mediate that sort of thing by themselves rather than to contract it out. I have a hunch that there are some Nebraska lawyers, if they had known that the money was available in that amount, would have been involved in wanting to negotiate that themselves. But, in any case, to the best of my knowledge, that...and then they did conduct a study that I required here a while back by LB 146. It wasn't a bad study. But really, in all honesty, you cannot afford to maintain the Water Management Board because the basic reinforced creation was to review water storage projects above \$10 million. I would love to tell you that we're going to build a lot of those projects. As you all know, I would dam every creek and stream in Nebraska if I had the resources and the votes to do so and the support. I don't have it. So there really isn't any reason to continue the Water Management Board. Individually, they're all fine people. Individually, they all carry on their responsibilities well. Individually, I think if you got them off in a corner and quizzed them very, very privately, they would concur with what I am doing. So, ladies and gentlemen, I would be willing to answer any questions. But, basically, one more thing. I was promised at a meeting over at the Governor's Mansion back in 1984 that there probably...that there would be \$50 million placed in the fund for construction of these projects. As we all know, the money was never forthcoming. Therefore, I believe we ought to disband the board.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schmit. For discussion, Senator Horgan.